

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated October 2, 2006 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

As indicated above, the claims have been amended for stylistic reasons. The amendments are unrelated to a statutory requirement for patentability and do not narrow the literal scope of the claims.

Claims 1-5 claim an information processing method and system and electronic money processor in which both data to be processed and electronic money are received and the electronic money is validated. Through the structure and method of the claimed invention, receiving both data to be processed and electronic money and validating the electronic money prior to print processing, as claimed in claims 1-5, the claimed invention provides a system and method in which printing is prevented when payment cannot be made while the wait time for payment and print processing can be reduced. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1-5.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Tognazzini* (U.S. Patent 6,295,482).

Tognazzini appears to disclose an electronic reader (100) communicates via its IRTR (110) with a similar unit attached to the electronic vending machine (200 shown in FIG. 2). (Column 5, lines 49-51). When the IRTR (110) of the electronic reader (100) is aimed at the IRTR of the vending machine and the user presses a button requesting information from it, a data link is established between the two units as discussed more hereinafter. Using this data link, the vending machine sends a data stream to the electronic reader. This data stream will contain either the

necessary information to access the electronic version of the newspaper via computer networks, or will contain the complete text of the newspaper or of a desired article. (Column 5, lines 54-63). FIG. 7 is an exemplary protocol explaining the interaction between a user device and the vending machine when collecting payments (MSP--case 2). Digital cash, received in payment of newspaper and article purchases, and payment authorizations, received in such payment, are stored in, preferably, nonvolatile memory (710) such as EEPROM. (Column 7, lines 24-29). FIG. 12 is an exemplary protocol explaining the interaction between a user device and the vending machine when a user downloads an article from the machine (USP--case 1). When the user selects this option (1200), the vending machine sends a menu of articles to the user (1210). The user selects a desired article or articles and sends the selection to the machine (1220). The machine provides cost information to the user of the items selected (1230) and, if the user desires to complete the transaction, the user sends digital cash to the machine or otherwise authorizes payment (1240). When payment has been received, the machine sends a copy of the articles to the user (1250) and the process returns. FIG. 13 is an exemplary protocol explaining the interaction between a user device and the vending machine when a user purchases an electronic newspaper. When a user selects this option (1300), the machine sends cost information to the user (1310) and the user sends digital cash to the machine or otherwise authorizes payment (1320). The machine asks the user to select a download methodology including direct download (D) or URL access (U) (1330). If the user selects direct download, the machine sends the electronic version of the newspaper over the infrared transceiver link to the user (1340). If the user selects URL access, the machine sends the URL and a password

for the particular edition purchased to the user for use in access over a network, such as the Internet (1350) and the process returns. FIG. 14 is an exemplary protocol explaining the interaction between a user device and the vending machine when a user purchases a physical product from the vending machine. When the user selects this option (1400), the vending machine sends cost information to the user (1410) relating to the purchase. The user either sends digital cash to the machine or authorizes payment in other ways (1420). When payment has been received, the machine dispenses the product (1430), the user removes the product (1440) and the process returns. (Column 9, line 59 through column 10, line 26).

Thus, *Tognazzini* merely discloses a user sending a selection of a desired article to a machine, the machine providing cost information and the user authorizing payment to complete the transaction (column 9, line 62 through column 10, line 3). Nothing in *Tognazzini* shows, teaches or suggests receiving both a) processing data to be information processed and b) electronic money as claimed in claims 1-5 and 8. Rather, *Tognazzini* merely discloses first sending a selection request for a machine and subsequently sending a payment.

Furthermore, *Tognazzini* merely discloses that the user authorizes payment. (Column 9, line 66 through column 10, line 1; column 10, lines 6-9 and 22-23). Nothing in *Tognazzini* shows, teaches or suggests determining whether the electronic money is valid or not as claimed in claims 1-5 and 8. Rather, *Tognazzini* merely discloses a user authorizing payment, but no validation of the payment is made.

Applicants respectfully point out that column 10, lines 30-39 to *Tognazzini* merely discloses a subscriber sending a subscriber password which is validated.

Nothing in *Tognazzini* shows, teaches or suggests that the electronic money is validated as claimed in claims 1-5 and 8. Rather, column 10, lines 30-39 merely discloses validating a subscriber password.

Furthermore, column 8, lines 17-29 of *Tognazzini* merely discloses preventing double-spending, and column 8, lines 53-58 discloses earmarking money. Nothing in *Tognazzini* shows, teaches or suggests validation of electronic money received together with data to be information processed.

Since nothing in *Tognazzini* shows, teaches or suggests a) receiving both data to be information processed and electronic money and b) determining whether received electronic money is valid as claimed in claims 1-5 and 8, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 6-7 depend from claim 5 and recite additional features. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6-7 would not have been anticipated by *Tognazzini* within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 102(e) at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner find that the application is not now in condition for allowance, applicants respectfully request the Examiner enters this Amendment for purposes of appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the applicants'

undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

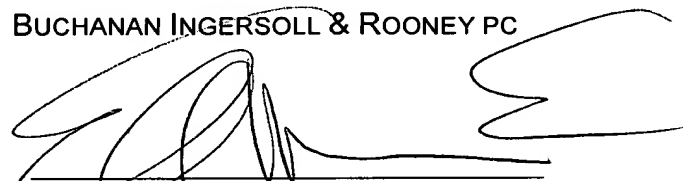
In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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